

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 012505

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEHRAN 0553 ACTION JERUSALEM INFO STATE TEL AVIV
CAIRO JIDDA JAN 17.

QUOTE S E C R E T TEHRAN 00553

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IR, SA, XF
SUBJ: VISIT OF SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER TO TEHRAN

1. AT SHAH'S INSTRUCTION, FONMIN KHALATBARY BRIEFED ME EVENING
JANUARY 16 CONCERNING JANUARY 15 VISIT OF SAUDI FOREIGN
MINISTER TO TEHRAN. HE ASKED THAT INFORMATION BE SENT TO
YOU IN JERUSALEM. HE SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ENTIRELY
ON MID-EAST NEGOTIATIONS.

2. KHALATBARY SUMMED UP TALKS BY SAYING THAT IRANIAN AND SAUDI
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ASSESSMENTS AND GOALS WERE THE SAME. HOWEVER, THERE REMAINED
ONE SIGNIFICANT POINT OF PROCEDURAL DIFFERENCE. SAUDIS REMAIN
CONVINCED THAT PALESTINIANS MUST BE OFFERED "UNLIMITED" OPTIONS
FOR "SELF-DETERMINATION". OTHERWISE, PRINCE SAUD MAINTAINS,
ARAB WORLD WOULD NEVER ACCEPT PALESTINE ENTITY
LINKED WITH JORDAN AS DEFINITIVE.

2. PRINCE SAUD WENT ON TO AGREE THAT ENTITY SHOULD BE LINKED WITH JORDAN, SHOULD BE DISARMED, AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN "INTERNATIONAL GUARANTY" CONCERNING ITS BEHAVIOR TOWARDS ITS NEIGHBORS. SAUDIS BELIEVE PALESTINIANS IN WEST BANK WILL VOLUNILY VTE OR ALL THESE CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, THERE WILL NEED TO BE A PAUSE IN THE PROCESS "IN ORDER TO GIVE US TIME TO PERSUADE THEM."

4. KHALATBARY SAYS HE IS NOT SURE WHAT FORM THIS "PERSUASION" WILL TAKE, BUT POINTED OUT THAT MONEY IS THE USUAL SAUDI MEDIUM. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT SAUDIS THOUGHT RADICAL WING OF PLO WOULD BE DOING DURING THIS SAME TIME FRAME.

5. COMMENT: IRANIANS, WHILE SEEING SOME LOGIC IN YOUNG SAUD'S POSITION, ARE CONVINCED THAT WEST BANK PALESTINIANS WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO ENORMOUS PRESSURE AND TERROR IN AN "UNLIMITED" PLEBISCITE AND WOULD VOTE FOR INDEPENDENCE. THEY CONSEQUENTLY FEEL SAUDI POSITION UNREALISTIC, CONTRARY TO BEST INTERESTS OF SAUDI ARABIA, AND REPRESENTS SAUDI EFFORT TO BUY TIME AND FAVOR FROM THE PLO RADICALS. SHAH HAS ASKED THAT WRITTEN RECORD OF ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD BY BOTH SIDES BE EXCHANGED BETWEEN CAPITALS. HIS PURPOSE IN DOING THIS IS TO LET KING KHALID READ IN ARABIC TEXT THE DETAILED ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD BY IRAN. SHAH HAS IMPRESSION KING HAS NEVER REALLY GRASPED THE ISSUE AND THIS METHOD MAY FOCUS HIS ATTENTION ON THE RISKS OF AN INDEPENDENT
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PALESTINE. SULLIVAN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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